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Assemblymembers De La Torre, Salas and community leaders announce permanent funding of \$1.6 million annually to encourage doctors to serve in low-income communities
San Diego's Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center will benefit from Thompson Program

San Diego, Calif. – Assemblymember Hector De La Torre and Assemblymember Mary Salas welcome Dr. Bahghi Keflezighi to the Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center as a participating doctor in the Steven M. Thompson Program. The Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program was created to address physician shortages in low-income communities throughout the state.

“The Program encourages doctors to serve in low-income and rural communities for at least three years. The Foundation awarded \$1.6 million through 16 grants in July. The Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center alongside thousands of residents in San Diego, will benefit by having another doctor in their community,” said Assemblymember De La Torre.

“The Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center serves as a vital part of San Diego’s healthcare safety net, a community where nearly 25% of residents lack health insurance. The Thompson Program helps bring quality doctors across California I am especially proud to have a doctor join the Diamond Neighborhood Family Health Care Center,” stated Assemblymember Salas.

“It is a true honor to be selected for the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Program. The loan repayment funds are allowing me to fulfill my dream of providing high quality medicine to the uninsured and medically underserved families in San Diego,” said Dr. Bahghi Keflezighi, Family Medicine Physician.

“The Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program helps our organization recruit and retain dedicated physicians who have passion for community medicine. Dr. Bahghi Keflezighi will help expand our services to over 120,000 patients in San Diego,” Jennette Lawrence, Director, Family Health Centers of San Diego.

Background:

Assemblymember De La Torre authored Assembly Bill 2439 that generates more than \$1.6 million per year to fund the Thompson Program from a mandatory \$25 fee from physicians. Specifically, the Program will provide an estimated \$105,000 in loan reimbursements per physician to practice medicine in under-served communities throughout California.

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